

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09991 091734Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 AEC-07 MC-02 OMB-01 ACDA-10 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 709

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 9991

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJ: FAHMY INTERVIEW IN SAWT AL-GAMI'

SUMMARY: IN DEC 9 ISSUE OF CAIRO WEEKLY, FAHMY URGES STUDENTS
TO RALLY ROUND GOE, CALLED RECENT RETRACTIONS ON PLO BY HIGH USG OFFICI
ALS

"TRIAL BALLOONS," REITERATED VITAL IMPORTANCE OF USG IN NEGOTIATING
PROCESS, WORRIED ABOUT RISING FORTUNES OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN IS,
CONDEMNED AMB SCALI'S UN SPEECH AS LACKING IN RESPECT
FOR MAJORITY RULE, WAFFLED ON GOJ-PLO PROBLEM, HINTED INTERIM
AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL POSSIBLE, SAID FIFT ME WAR WOULD BE ON
ALL FRONTS, HOPED USSR WILL PLAY INCREASING ROLE IN SETTLEMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09991 091734Z

AND STRESSED GOE HOPES BREZHNEV VISIT WILL RESULT IN MILITARY

DELIVERIES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW ACCORDED BY FONMIN FAHMY TO STUDENT WEEKLY SAWT AL-GAMI' DEC 9, FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

A. STUDENTS. IN SIGNED "CALL" TO EGYPTIAN STUDENTS FAHMY URGED NECESSITY OF THEIR SUPPORTING GOE (SEE SEPTTEL).

B. USG RETRACTIONS. CONCERNING RECENT STATEMENT BY GENERAL BROWN, PRESIDENT FORD, VICE PRESIDENT DESIGNATE ROCKFELER AND UNDERSECRETARY SISCO WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RETRACTED, FAHMY SAID IT HAS BEEN CUSTOM OF "HIGH LEVELS" TO MAKE STATEMENTS SERVING AS TRIAL BALLOONS. PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENT ABOUT ISRAEL NEGOTIATING WITH JORDAN OR PLO IS "A RETREAT" (IE IN PRO-PLO DIRECTION) FAHMY SAID SUCH SUCH STATEMENTS HE CONSIDERS AS "PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION", BUT STRESSED OFFICIAL USG STAND IS UNCHANGED AND IS CONTINUATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLICY AFTER OCTOBER 6.

C. FRANCE/PLO. AFTER PRAISING FRENCH PLO POLICY FAHMY EXPLAINED AWAY FRENCH UNGA VOTE BY SAYING RECOGNITION IS NOT THE QUESTION NOW, SINCE MANY STATES DO NOT RECOGNIZE ORGANIZATIONS, BUT DO RECOGNIZE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTS OR GOVERNMENTS IN EXILE. ON ARAFAT/SAUVAGNARGUES BEIRUT MEETING, FAHMY SAID "WE NOTE ALL THE POLITICAL OR QUASI LEGAL MEANINGS DO NOT DIFFER FROM DE JURE RECOGNITION WHERE POLITICAL WEIGHT IS CONCERNED."

D. USG/GOE. OCTOBER WAR HAD DIRECT IMPACT ON US CAUSING RECONSIDERATION OF POLICY. EGYPT'S POLICY TOWARD US IS CLEAR: "WE GO ALONG WITH US STEP BY STEP TO EXTENT SHE GOES ALONG WITH US, SO THAT RESPONSE MAY TAKE PLACE." ASKED WHAT USG GAVE IN RETURN FOR EGYPTIAN DOOR OPENING, FAHMY SAID USG GAVE UP FORMER WRONG THINKING TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE, ESPECIALLY RE PLO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS; ONLY US CAN FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW OR CONTRIBUTE TO SETTLEMENT ISSUE; AND, ANYWAY, GOE DOES NOT WANT USG TO OFFER ANYTHING-"ALL WE WANT IS JUST SOLUTION." INTERVIEWER SAID US HAS OFFERED SECDEF STATEMENT HONORING US ARE COMMITMENTS FOR ISRAEL, CONGRESSIONAL STAND TOWARD UNESCO, KISSINGER'S EFFORT PERSUADE MRS. GANDHI NOT TO GIVE ARABS NUCLEAR HELP AND KISSINGER'S EFFORT MAKE CONGRESS APPROVE SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT SO SOVIET JEWS CAN EMIGRATE. RESPONDING, FAHMY SAID WE WELCOME RELATIVE CHANGE IN USG POLICY, THOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09991 091734Z

IT STILL LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.

F. USG INTERNAL. "WE MUST ENCOURAGE CREATION OF PUBLIC OPINION IN US WHICH SUPPORTS PALESTINE CAUSE. INFLATION AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ELECTION VICTORIES SERVE ISRAEL, SO ARABS MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHANCE BEFORE DEMOCRATS COME IN. DEMOCRATS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL NOT BE AS LIKELY TO "FACILITATE" US-USSR DETENTE. ON VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT, FAHMY SAID: "I BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR THAT DECISION IS MADE HERE IN EGYPT AND NOT ANYWHERE ELSE."

G. SCALI SPEECH. AMBASSADOR SCALI'S REMARKS ON DICTATORSHIP OF MAJORITY WAS "NOT SUCCESSFUL". USG IS DEMOCRATEC COUNTRY AND SHOULD ABIDE BY RULES OF DEOMCRACY.

H. GOE ARA POLICY. "EGYPT WILL NOT SIGN ANY FINAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE WITHDRAWAL FROM ALLOCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORITIES AND CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ENTITY." (COMME NT:

NOTE ADJECTIVE "FINAL."). UNTIL TERRITORY IS LIBERATED, JORDAN WILL CONTINUE HONOR HER RABAT COMMITMENTS. QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE WILL OCCUR AT SUTIALE TIME AND HAS NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH GENEVA CONFERENCE; ITS CHIEF PURPOSE IS TO ORGANIZE JORDAN-PALESTINE RELATIONSHIP. AS FOR GENEVA, CONVENING IN EARLY FEB.

T"THIS WE HOPE FOR AND HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONVENING AT THAT TIME." HOWVER, "THERE IS NO ROOM FOR FORMULA OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS (SIC) OF RHODES AGREEMENT AS WAS SUBJECT OF MUCH TALK AFTER 1970 1970 ROGERS INITIATI VE."

I. ARAB "MERGERS". UNITY CANNOT BE FORCED FROM ABOVE, BUT MUST BE RESULT OF PEOPLES' FUSION AND BELIEF IN UNITY. "SERIOUS EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING EXERTED BY INSTITUTIONS OF THE CONFEDERAL SATE(EGYPT, SYRA I, LIBYA)."

J. WALDHEIM. ASKED IF WALDHEIM MIGHT SERVE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR KISSINGE R, FAHMY SAID HE HAS SPECIAL ROLE WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK AND RES 338, BUT SETTLEMENT OF THIS KIND OF WORLD PROBLEM REQUIES EFFORTS OF MAJOR WORLD STATES, ESPECIALLY TWO SUPERPOWERS.

K. FIFTH WAR. IF THERE IS FIFTH WAR, IT WILL BE ON ALL FRONTS.

1. GOE-USSR. RELATIONSHIP IS "STRATEGIC" AND IS GOVERNED BY 1971 TREA TY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. EGYPT IS EAGER FOR USS TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN SOLVING CRISIS. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARABS AND EGYPT IS PRACTICAL REASON FOR EGYPT TO WISH FOR INCRASING SOVIETS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 CAIRO 09991 091734Z

ROLE. FURTHER, USSR IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPORT FOR EGYPT. "I HAVE NO DOUBT SOVIET LEADERS UNDERSTAND SUPPORT FOR EGYPT IN MILITARY AND OTHER FIELDS IS TANTAMOUNT TO DIRECT SUPPORT FOR PROGRESS AND LIBERATION I ENTIRE THIRD WORLD."

M. GENEVA. EGYPT WAS FIRST TO PROPOSE GENEVA CONFERENC IN SADAT'S OCT 16 SPEECH. WE WANT USSR TO PLAY BASIC ROLE IN SEARCH FOR PEACE AND GENEVA MUST BE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH EFFORTS. CONFERENCE MUST BE PRECEDED BY PREPARATION, INCLUDING ARAB COORDINATION, IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

N. BREZHNEV VISIT. ASKED WHAT IS EXPECTED OF BREZHNEV-SADAT SUMMIT, FAHMY REPLIED: "IT IS MILITARY CONSOLIDATION OF EGYPT'S DEFENSEIVE EFFICIENCY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY."

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